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true?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: That's true.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If you use the state's machine you're telling me it would still cost you eight cents every time you put a card through the state's machine?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: No, it would not cost us in that scenario.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, what we're being told is that a system that costs the grocer nothing is more expensive to the grocer than a system that costs him or her eight cents per transaction. If you have eight transactions...if you have a hundred transactions, to make it easy for me, one hundred transactions, the grocer has to pay eight cents for each transaction. Eight times one hundred is eight hundred pennies or eight dollars. It costs the grocer eight dollars for every one hundred transactions using his or her own machine. With the state's machine it costs the grocer nothing. So what the grocers are telling us is that the system that costs zero is more expensive than the system that costs eight dollars for this number of transactions, and you can multiply the number of transactions by eight cents because there might be more than a hundred transactions in a month. What they're saying doesn't make sense. This is something that the Grocers Association put together and the big stores are the ones who are pushing it because 35 out of 812 get more than 50 percent of the food stamp sales in this state. Those 35 are the ones who have the clout, and of those 35 you could probably break out a few who get the lion's share of that. Aside from even those kinds of statistical arguments, it is not good policy to pay these grocers in this program. They are not going to stop at five cents. You see what the ethanol people are doing. They come back and say, give us more. You put us out there and made us rely on this, now we need more to make it; give us some more money. And the Legislature does all kinds of maneuvering and shifting positions to give them more money at taxpayers' expense. What the grocers are telling us is that if you do it their way and pay them off then the state will save \$21,000 in a year. That is such a small amount of money when you look at